The NASA Glenn Research Center Macintosh User Group

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Officers

Melissa McGuire
President
Melissa.L.Mcguire@grc.nasa.gov

Ward Souders
Vice President
Ward.Souders@grc.nasa.gov

Lisa Madden
Secretary/Editor
Lisa.Madden@grc.nasa.gov

Michael Mills
NASA Apple Rep
mills.m@apple.com

Well, sorry for the long delay in getting the next Grapple MUG newsletter to you. Many personal obstacles stood between me and my home computer. This is an attempt to combine the March and April meetings.

Our March 28 meeting featured our very own **Deb Seklak** giving a wonderful presentation on using Filemaker Pro to put your database up on the web. It was nice to see some PC faces in the crowd, since Filemaker Pro is cross platform. Because of this presentation, there are now materials in our Learning Center to help anyone interested (both mac and PC) in doing this *(ed note: see inside for more details)*. Deb also has her presentation in PDF format, and I am sure she will share with you if you are interested. Contact her for more information.

Les Farkas and **Don Sosoka** from the NASA Program Office, plus   XXXXXX   from ACS Corporate were on hand to field questions concerning implementing ODIN at Glenn. If anyone did not get their questions answered, or were unable to attend this valuable information-gathering session, please contact either Les or Don.

On April 16, Apple sprang for pizza and soda. We had around 50 people attending. We gave away many door prizes, including T-Shirts, sunglass holders for your car visor, and a CoolPad swivel base for a powerbook! We went through 20 large pizzas and 9 2-liters of soda!

Mike Mills, our NASA Apple Rep, did a 2+ hour demo on OS X, showing some of the basic and more in depth features of the operating system. He claims that 70,000 developers have downloaded the source code already, and 10,000 are doing work for OS X applications. OS X is currently available in 7 languages.

ODIN and OS X and our Macs

March 28, 2001

Well, we have had another meeting of our monthly MUG meetings. I am back at my office, after what seems like a very long afternoon, doing some reflection. I don't think that today's meeting went all that well. Or maybe it did.

Two things shown me today, for sure, lead me to believe that ODIN does not have a good handle on where they are going with OS X and we users have lots of questions.

I was hoping that some of those questions would be answered with today's briefing from the ODIN office. That didn't seem to happen. However, the MUG is going to keep trying to get the ODIN project and ACS folks in charge to tell us what they are doing. In the meantime, I will also be concentrating on learning OS X on my own, as will the rest of the MUG leaders, so we can help all of you come up to speed on the ins and outs of X (and this UNIX they all talk about!). If we wait for ODIN to educate us, I fear it's going to be a while.

Thanks you to everyone who came to the March 28th meeting. We had over 40 people there, and on a meeting day without pizza, that's a huge turnout. Having that many folks turn out makes it worth my time to continue to try to make sure our platform gets represented they way it should be. I am going to keep looking to the MUG as the way to do that.

I'd also like to send out a special thank you to Debbi Sedlak for her excellent FileMaker Pro demo. I apologize to those of you who missed it because the first half of the meeting ran entirely too long. We will get Debbi's presentation up onto our web page as well as into a newsletter to help make up for that.

Best of luck to us all in the coming months!

—Melissa McGuire, President

—from **Editorial***, page 1*

Overall it looks to be a slick interface, incorporating many new items as well as keeping the familiar mac look.

Next month Peter Jacobson of Absoft will be at NASA demonstrating their fortran compiler. And guess what? They are springing for pizza and soda!! Be there or be square.

Keep this thought: for the June meeting, we are considering a Q&A session. Bring your questions with you and we'll try to answer. Later, these tips and tricks and quick fixes will be compiled into a document and sent to all mac users on lab.

—Lisa Madden, Editor

http://www.lerc.nasa.gov/
WWW/AdvisoryGroups/MUG/
or
http://GMUG.grc.nasa.gov

MacSSH: Secure Shell for the Macintosh

by: Melissa McGuire (melissa.mcguire@grc.nasa.gov)

Company: MacSSH
Web Page: http://www.macssh.com/

The group I work for here at NASA Glenn does a lot of our work on a Sun workstation under UNIX so we have access to its FORTRAN compilers and developer environment. To get there, we use Telnet tools (NCSA Telnet) and X-windowing clients (Mac X, Exodus) to allow our Macs to log into the workstation via telnet or as though our Mac were an x-terminal. On lab, this is not an issue for security, but at home, via our RAS accounts, telnet presents the opportunity for a hacker to sniff anything you are typing into your telnet window.

Up until now, the only SSH client for the Macintosh was costly and our group was ok within our firewall for the time being. While scanning the www.macsurfer.com headline news segments the other day, I came across a new MacSSH client that is *FREE* and may be distributed under the GNUG general public license.

http://www.gnu.org/software/software.html#DescriptionsOfOtherGPLSoftware

It is written by Jean-Pierre Stierlin (mailto:jps@7ways.net).

I am not a UNIX system admin and I will not pretend to be a networking expert, so I can't go on and on about the necessity of a secure shell login or the nuances of hackers snooping on what you send over the net. I can only tell you that we Macs are no longer on the short end of things. We can telnet, ftp, get, put, etc all the files we want and rest assured that no one can snoop in on what we're typing over the network.

As always, this software is not officially supported here at NASA Glenn Research Center on the desktop Macs….but it should be. As should SSH2 (as opposed to the SSH1 we are running on standard UNIX configurations).

Check out the following sites for more details.

Security and SSH links
A Secure Macintosh web site   http://www.securemac.com/
SSH   http://www.ssh.com/
Better Telnet   http://www.cstone.net/~rbraun/mac/telnet/

How to Use @mac.com Email on Lab

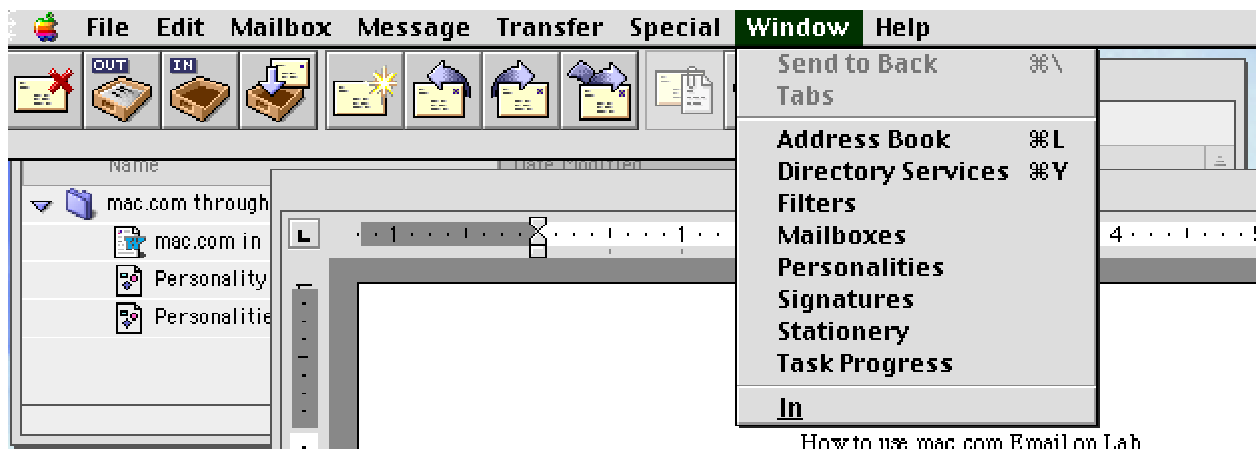*by Melissa McGuire (melissa.mcguire@grc.nasa.gov)*
  Web Page: http://itools.mac.com/

In a recent article, we told you about email addresses that aren't tied to a particualar Isp (internet service providor). These email addresses gave you the freedom to change Isps at will and still take your one email account along with you. This way, you are saved the hassle of constantly resubscribing to internet sites every time you have a new address.

This got me to thinking. If you're a Mac user, and you've gone through Apple to set up an iTools account, thus getting an @mac.com email address, you can set up your Eudora account here at work to check that email account, as well as to send via that email account.

It's probably not "officially" sanctioned, but it can be done.

Choose the Personalities menu pick under the Window menu (see Figure 1 – Windows Menu). From their, set up a new personality. Call it whatever you want.

Figure 1 - Windows menu option

Fill out the information on the SMTP, and mail host servers as seen in the following snapshot. I have made everything generic for easier understanding. Enter in the username you created when you signed up for the iTools account. This is also your email name, so your email address would look like iToolsusername@mac.com. Use the mail.mac.com as your Mail host and use the GRC popserver as your SMTP server. I don't let Eudora check my mac.com address every 20 minutes like I do my regular @grc.nasa.gov account. (see Figure 2)

As for the Personality extras, I use that to allow the email to stay on the mail.mac.com server until I check it again at home and download it to my iBook there. (See Figure 3)

Hope that this helps anyone interested in getting access to their @mac.com email on lab. Additionally, this same method will work if you're accessing the @mac.com email from any other Isp. I have a setup like this on my Earthlink.net account at home. IN that case, I use Earthlink's SMTP server and mail.mac.com as the Mail Host just like Figure 2.
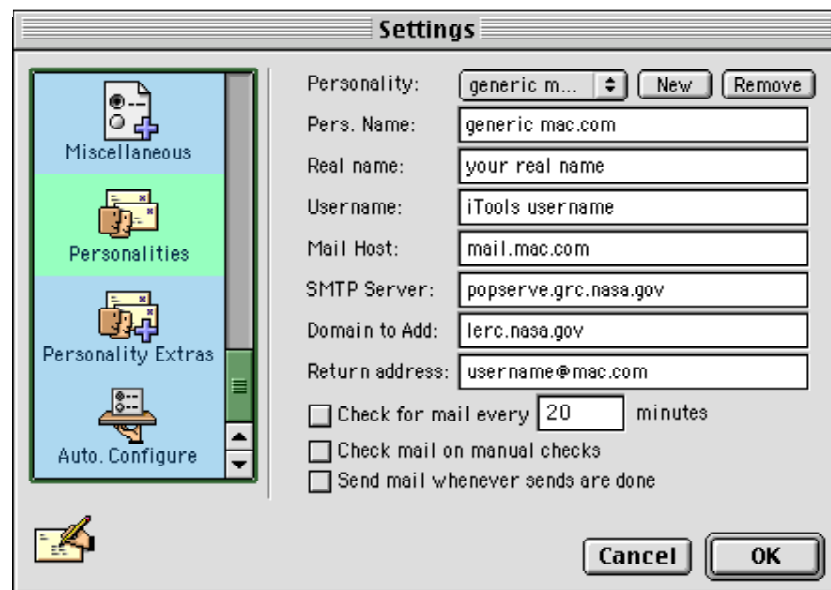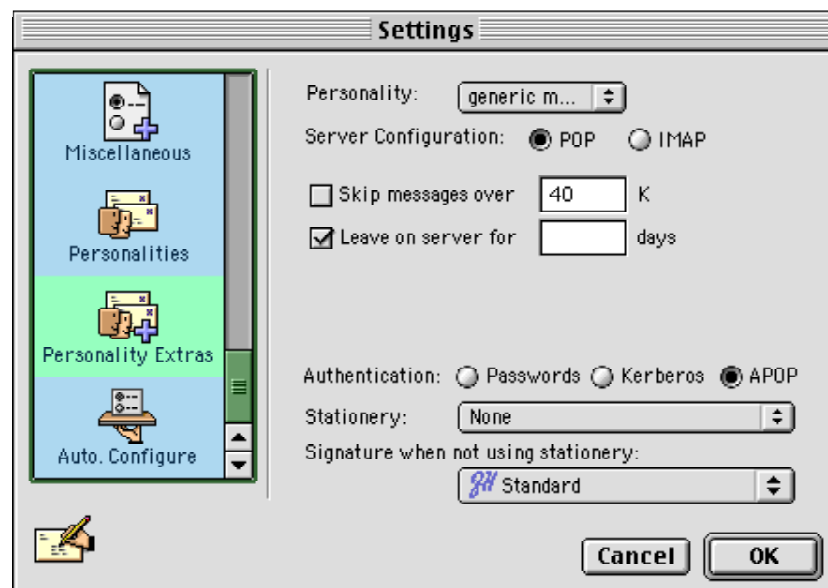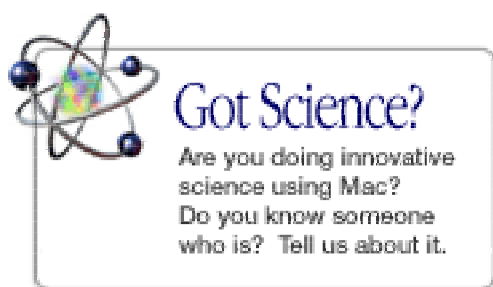
Figure 2 - Personalities

Figure 3 - Personality Extras

Apple Science and Technology Web Page

by Melissa McGuire (melissa.mcguire@grc.nasa.gov)

Web Page: *http://www.apple.com/scitech/*

Apple has quietly launched a web page aimed at reaching out to us, science and engineering Mac users. So far, it's more of an advertisement content page, with picture filled stories about scientists and engineers using Macs to do wonderful work and make the world a better place.
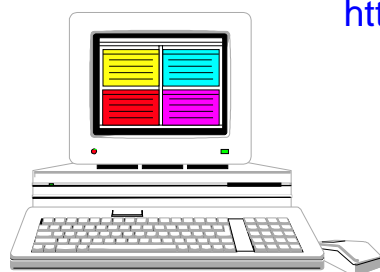
Currently, the content is divided up into four subject areas: Scientific Imaging, Life Science, Physical Science, and Research Tools. Find the URLs at the ending of this article.

Head on over to Apple to check out their science and engineering support. If you have suggestions, email our MUG, or directly to Apple (scitech@apple.com).

A current story is on Jim Garvin of NASA Headquarters who has worked as a scientists on various NASA missions (Earth observing, Mars, etc.) He's a been a big Mac user for years. I'd love to see a Mac user from NASA Glenn Research Center right up there too on Apple's site. Maybe one of you out there can help me out and put together something for Apple to highlight someone or something from our center.

With the release of OS X, Apple has a real chance of getting back into the science and engineering fields again. I know our group is anxiously awaiting getting our hands on some good Fortran compilers so that we can test out the work we're currently doing on the Sun workstations on a G4 running OS X. (more on that in future newsletters).

http://www.apple.com/scitech/imaging/
http://www.apple.com/scitech/lifescience/
http://www.apple.com/scitech/physicalscience/
http://www.apple.com/scitech/research/

X Windows in OS X

by Torrey T. Lyons (as submitted to the MacOSX-talk@omniweb.com List:)

A free version of XFree86 running side by side with the Mac OS X Aqua desktop is now available at http://mrcla.com/XonX/. (This code will eventually find its way into the XFree86 CVS repository.) Thanks go to Gregory Robert Parker for the original concept and implementation.

This is a full screen implementation. The user can switch back and forth between the X window desktop and the Aqua desktop with a key combination. The support is still very preliminary and is missing many features such as multibutton mouse support and copy and paste interoperability with Aqua applications. It does seem to be stable, however, and is faster than Xvnc.

XFree86 for Aqua shares as much code as possible with XFree86 4.0.2 for Darwin. The new Xdarwin server can be made to run side by side with Aqua by specifying the -quartz command line option. In this mode the framebuffer is provided by CoreGraphics instead of the IOKit and the events are read from a controlling Carbon application instead of the IOKit.

—Torrey
XFree86 Developer - Darwin/Mac OS X Support
"Action figure sold separately."

We Are Number ONE!

I was just surfing some Mac related web sites and came across this

http://www.user-groups.net/UGCommunity/nl_mac.html

Our newsletter is listed in the user group network's most recommended Mac newsletters! Lisa, you are to be commended!!!! Way to go to everyone who has contributed to our monthly newsletters! Let's keep it up! *(Ed. Note: Thanks Melissa, I'm blushing...)*

Tips & Tricks

EASY-LOAD CONTROL STRIP MODULES

With Mac OS 8.5 and higher, you can quickly add a Control Strip module to the Control Strip by dragging that module onto the Strip. To remove a module, press the Option key while you click and hold down on the module, then let go of the Option key and drag it off of the Strip.

To make a copy of a module, you can drag it onto or off of the Strip while pressing the Option key: Option drag a module onto the Strip, and the original will stay in place while the copy is added to the Control Strip. Option-drag a module off the Strip, and the original will stay put while a copy is created wherever you dropped it.

As long as you're Option-dragging modules, here's one more trick: To move a module to a new location on the Strip, press Option while you drag it to the new location.

Convert Just About Anything

(for both Mac OS 9.1 and OS X users) If you deal with image files, and most of us do, then you know howpainful the process can be sometimes. GraphicConverter to the rescue! This application will convert just about any image format to any other image format. You can browse image folders as slide shows and in a drop-down, Finder type mode. GraphicConverter is now Carbonized and ready for OS X. Go get version 4.0.5 from www.versiontracker.com and you'll be on the road to better image control.

Get version 4.0.5 with a click!   http://www.versiontracker.com

Docking Station

(Mac OS X tip) The Dock is located at the bottom of the OS X screen. Placing items in the dock allows for a one-click opening of folders, files, applications, and the like, similar to the Classic Apple Menu. The dock can be resized, and magnification and animation can be turned on or off. To customize your dock, head to the Apple Menu and choose Dock, Dock Preferences.

Tips & Tricks

BEWARE OF EMPTY TRASH SHORTCUT

Mac OS 9.1 gives us shortcuts for moving an item to the Trash (Command-Delete) and emptying the Trash (Command-Shift-Delete). When something is in the Trash, Command-Shift-Delete works just as it should. However, if the Trash is already empty, and any item on your desktop is selected when you press Command-Shift-Delete, that item will be moved to the Trash.

Consider this scenario: The very important file on which you were last working is still selected when you press Command-Shift-Delete. You glance to the corner of your Desktop and see the bulging Trash icon, which means the Trash is not empty. You figure you must have pressed a wrong key, so you do it again, and the Trash empties. You move on, and when you next go to work on the very important file, it is GONE.

What happened? Well, if the Trash was empty the first time you pressed the keyboard shortcut, your very important file was moved there. When you pressed the shortcut the second time, that very important file was deleted from the Trash.

USE F-KEYS TO OPEN APPLICATIONS

With Mac OS 9.1 (and OS 9 on some iBooks, iMacs, and newer PowerBooks), you can customize your keyboard's F-keys to launch applications or documents. (The F-keys, or function keys, are those keys at the top of your keyboard, and are labeled F1, F2, and so on.)

Start by opening the Keyboard control panel (Apple Menu, Control Panels) and clicking the Function Keys button. This will open a Hot Function Keys window that displays each F-key and the task assigned to it. Then, you simply drag an application or document to the slot next to the appropriate F-key. Alternately, you can click an F-key button in this window and then locate the application or document you want to assign to that key.

To remove an assignment, select it in the window and click the Clear button. You can also replace an assignment by simply dragging a new item to its slot.

Like a Thief

Looking for a Macintosh software that can convert an X-Y graph image in jpeg or Tiff format created by scanning a printed paper, to 1D data which can be plotted using a graphing software such as IgorPro, KaleidaGraph, etc.??

Try DataThief http://www.nikhef.nl/~keeshu/datathief/index.html

GIMP, the PhotoShop Killer

by Melissa McGuire

Standard disclaimer: As usual, this software is not supported under ODIN and I am only sending this information out for your general knowledge and home use. If you install it here on lab you are your only support.

Still, this is great news. GIMP has been around for a while on Linux and working quite well. I am happy to hear that it has been ported to OS X. Once a few of us have tested OS X more, you'll hear more of our opinions and lessons on pieces of software such as this.

In case you don't know what "the Gimp is" Here's a blurb

"The Gimp is the GNU Image Manipulation Program, like Photoshop only Free and much better in almost any respect. http://www.gimp.org "

Here's what you'd need for this app

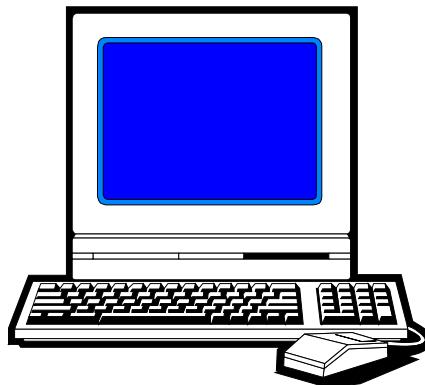Before you begin, this what you'd need (all but the Tenon stuff is from Apple in OS X): XTools, free until September, from Tenon. http://www.tenon.com gnome-libs, GTK+, LibJepg, also from Tenon. Mac OS X GM, 4k78 or Final. Developer Tools installed.

Another Mac only, free tool

from Herb Schilling

This might be of use to other Mac users:

http://www.gis.net/~dinmore/

Review a Book — Win Cool Stuff!!

For reviews of books, you can win free books. Here are the details...

Read any good books lately? Evidently our "Read a book...Get a book" promotion isn't appealing to many user group writers out there... probably already got all the books they can handle now! How about posting in your newsletter for members to start getting free books? Great idea!

Send them to: http://www.user-groups.net/resources/bookster.html

You can request a list of available books at: http://www.user-groups.net/contact.html

Filemaker Pro Training Now Available at Learnin Center

From the training session we had on FileMaker Pro not too long ago, an interest in adding FMPro training materials to the Learning Center was brought up. I followed that up with the LC and they now have the FMPro learning CDs that were mentioned in the training by Debbi. She couldn't say enough good things about them.

The disks work on both a Macintosh and a PC, so even if you're on a PC, these will still be of use to you.

Head on over to the Learning Center to borrow these new materials!

FileMaker Pro 5: Web Publishing has arrived and is ready to be used.

TITLE:FILEMAKER PRO 5: WEB PUBLISHING

DESCRIPTION: People have been surfing the web for some time now and most, possibly unknowingly, have interacted with a web-based database. If you have ever entered your name in a guest book, ordered a product online, or located a website via a search engine, you,ve interacted with a database on the web.

FileMaker Pro is a CGI, Web Server and a database which offers both instant and custom web publishing features. In addition, no special plug-ins are required to view your FileMaker Pro based website.

Volume 1 of this training program covers general set-up, Web Companion, configuration, and instant web publishing. Volume 2 covers custom web publishing.

Course contents: 2 CD ROMs.   Produced by MacAcademy, 2000.

AUDIENCE: Current users of FileMaker Pro 5 who need training on the web publishing features. Can be used on both Mac and Windows PC machines.

LENGTH: 2-3 hours.

For more information contact the Learning Center at 3-2996/2997.